

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1308

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0569

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET REP ON AIR MANPOWER  
DATA, NOVEMBER 20, AND 25

1. AFTER THE NOVEMBER 20 PLENARY, SOVIET DEPUTY REP SMIRNOVSKIY, TOLD US REP BILATERALLY THAT HE HAD HEARD WESTERN REPS ASSERT THAT THE TOTALS OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER FOR EACH SIDE IN THE AREA WERE APPROXIMATELY EQUAL. HE ASKED WHETHER THIS CONCLUSION WAS BASED ON THE WEST'S ALLOCATION OF FORCES BETWEEN GROUND AND AIR FORCES. HE SAID THAT ACCORDING TO EASTERN FIGURES, THE AIR FORCE MANPOWER TOTALS FOR EACH SIDE WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY EQUAL ONLY IF THE EASTERN METHOD OF ALLOCATION WERE USED, INCLUDING ITS ALLOCATION OF THE THREE DISPUTED FORCES CATEGORIES.

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2. US REP CONFIRMED THAT WESTERN STATEMENTS WERE BASED

ON THE WESTERN ALLOCATION.

3. SMIRNOVSKIY SAID THAT HE COULD THEN SEE WHY THE WEST MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO ALLOCATE THE FORCES BETWEEN GROUND AND AIR FORCES IN THE WAY PROPOSED BY THE EAST.

4. US REP SAID THIS WAS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE DATA IN CONNECTION WITH RESOLVING THE DIFFICULTIES OF FORCE CATEGORIZATION.

5. COMMENT. AFTER THE BILATERAL, US REP LEARNED THAT THE 1975-76 IISS MILITARY BALANCE REPORT GIVES AS TOTALS FOR AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION AREA: NATO-210,000; PACT-178,000. THE DIFFERENCE IS 32,000. THIS RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT SMIRNOVSKIY MIGHT HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO THIS DATA. END COMMENT.

6. AFTER THE NOVEMBER 25 INFORMAL IN A BILATERAL CONVERSATION WITH SMIRNOVSKIY, US REP REFERRED TO SMIRNOVSKIY'S STATEMENT THAT ACCORDING TO EASTERN FIGURES THE TOTALS OF AIR MANPOWER WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY EQUAL ONLY IF THE EASTERN METHOD OF ALLOCATION WERE USED. US REP ASKED SMIRNOVSKIY WHETHER IN MAKING THIS STATEMENT HE WAS REFERRING TO FIGURES PROVIDED BY HIS GOVERNMENT. SMIRNOVSKIY SAID HE WAS REFERRING TO DATA SUPPLIED BY THE SOVIET MILITARY.

7. US REP SAID THAT HE KNEW THE IISS HAD PUBLISHED FIGURES ON THIS SUBJECT BUT THAT THESE WERE NOT CORRECT. HE ASKED IF SMIRNOVSKIY WAS REFERRING TO THE IISS FIGURES. SMIRNOVSKIY SAID THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE IISS FIGURES AND WAS NOT REFERRING TO THEM BUT WAS REFERRING TO DATA FROM HIS MILITARY.

8. US REP SAID THAT THEN IT WAS CLEAR THAT THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AS TO THE AIR MANPOWER LEVELS IN THE AREA.

9. COMMENT. SMIRNOVSKIY'S REMARKS WOULD INDICATE THAT  
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THE DATA TO WHICH HE REFERS SHOW THAT WESTERN AIR MANPOWER EXCEEDS EASTERN AIR MANPOWER BY AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE SOVIET'S ESTIMATE OF THE NET EFFECT OF USING THE ALLOCATION WHICH THE EAST HAS PROPOSED INSTEAD OF THE WEST'S ALLOCATION. WE DO NOT KNOW SOVIET ESTIMATES, BUT USING CURRENT NATO DATA (1975 MCM CONFERENCE), THE NET EFFECT OF USING THE EAST'S ALLOCATION METHOD WOULD BE TO INCREASE BY 30,000 THE AMOUNT BY WHICH PACT AIR MANPOWER EXCEEDS NATO AIR

MANPOWER. END COMMENT.RESOR

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